

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Evelyn Avoglia, and I am a resident of Stamford. I am a second generation Italian-American.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I'm a retired person who has worked in the not-for-profit helping professions since the late 1960's. I have repeatedly witnessed the cascading disasters that a lack of access to healthcare wreaks on individuals, especially individuals with dependents.

Untreated acute injuries or ailments, as well as unmonitored or unmanaged chronic conditions inevitably lead to crisis, often to hospitalizations, sometimes to preventable deaths. The human toll is lamentable and incalculable. The material drain on community resources is avoidable and quantifiable.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Evelyn Avoglia, Ph.D.
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